business delegation from FICCI visited Pakistan from September 24-26, 1995, on invitation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to participate in a seminar on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

(b) It is not possible to anticipate or quantify the likely trade flow as a result of the visit.

Coal reserves in India

726. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has vast coal reserves;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of India is importing coal;

(c) if so, what is the percentage of coal being imported to that of total indigenous production;

(d) what is the total coal consumption and requirement in the country; and

(e) whether import of coal is cost-effective?

THE MINISTR OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 1.1.95, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has established about 200 billion tonnes of coal reserves in seams 0.9 metre and above in thickness and down to depth of 1200 metres in different parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir. Coal is imported directly by the consumers under Open General Licence (OGL).

(c) During 1994-95, 11.49 million tonnes of coal amounting to 4.53% of the total indigenous production was imported.

(d) Demand of coal during 1994-95 as assessed by Planning Commission was 273.50 million tonnes (including 5.00 million tonnes of washery middlings) and the total off-take of coal was 263.31 million tonnes (including 2.67 millio tonnes of washery middlings).

(e) It is not possible to make a genera assessment about cost effectiveness o imported coal which inter-alia depend upon factors like specific custome requirement, quality of coal, prevailin international price vis-a-vis indigenou availability and location of the consume from the source of supply etc.

More job opportunities in Punjab

727. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will th Minister of PLANNING AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIO be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose t take some appropriate corrective steps t create more opportunities of jobs to th poor people in the State of Punjab durin the next two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken b Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THI MINISTRY OF PLANNING AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIO (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) (a) to (d) No new programme for th generation of employment for the poor i under consideration of the Plannin Commission. Employment generation i Punjab or for that matter in any State i primarily a function of the pace an pattern of development in the State an an employment strategy appropriate t the State has to be drawn up an implemented by the State Government The Central Government supplement the efforts of the State Governmen through the various Central Sector an Centrally Sponsored Special Employmen Programmes.

Two major Centrally sponsore Programmes which are bein implemented to increase the employmen opportunities for the rural poo

throughout the country including the State of Punjab are: the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). While the JRY is a wage-employment programme; whereas the IRDP is a self-employment programme. In Punjab 85470 families have been assisted at an expenditure of Rs. 3911.39 lakh under IRDP from 1992-93 to 1995-96 (upto September 1995) and 101.15 lakh mandays have been generated under JRY from 1992-93 to 1995-96 (upto October, 1995) at an expenditure of Rs. 6595.01 lakh.

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) is being implemented throughout the country including Punjab with the objective of providing self-employment and wage-employment opportunities to unemployed and under-employed urban poor living below the proverty line. In Punjab Central assistance of Rs. 1529.09 lakh has been released under NRY upto 1994-95. As on 31.10.1995, 17,274 beneficiaries have been assisted in setting up self-employment ventures in the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and 10.62 lakh mandays of work have been generated under the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) and the Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU).

A new scheme called Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) which was launched in 1995-96 has integration of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poor segments of the society as one of its basic features.

Revamping of PDS

728. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the States to plug gaps in the revamped PDS;

(b) if so, whether he suggested that matter of food supplies and food security should be kept outside the realm of politics;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken a decision that PDS must reach every village in the country;

(d) if so, whether any decision for opening of more fair price shops in the country during 1995-96 has been taken;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government have assured that PDS supplies are provided to these fair price shops in time; and

(g) if so, to what extent the above commodities will be supplied to the States according to their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Prime Minister has been impressing from time to time in various fora that States/UTs should tone up the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) including Revamped PDS (RPDS). In the meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS held on 7.6.95 the Prime Minister impressed on the States/UTs on the need for ensuring that the benefits of the PDS/RPDS reach the people.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (g) As per the present policy of the Central Government coverage of PDS is universal in nature and all village are covered under the PDS. Under joint responsibility of PDS, the Central Government procures, stores, transports and makes bulk allocation of six key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, imported palm oil and soft coke to States/UTs for distribution through PDS. It is the operational responsibility of States/UTs to implement the PDS in the area of their jurisdiction and take decisions on matters such as sub-allocation to various regions within